



*Always Ready
Always There*

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Joe Galloway visits Nakayama Memorial - gravesite of Medal of Honor recipient Maj. Ed Freeman

Joe Galloway, war correspondent and Co-Author of *We were Soldiers Once...And Young*, visited the 2nd Lt. Jimmy Nakayama memorial on Gowen Field and the gravesite of Medal of Honor Recipient Maj. Ed Freeman on June 26, 2015.

The book and movie tells the story of the battle of Ia Drang, Vietnam in November 1965. The Battle was the first major battle between regulars of the U.S. Army and regulars of the People's Army of Vietnam of North Vietnam during the Vietnam conflict.

Mr. Galloway, along with the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry conducted a helicopter insertion into landing zone X-Ray. The unit of 400 Soldiers was vastly outnumbered by two regiments and 2,000 Soldiers of the PAVN. The unit was fighting for their lives and facing a relentless attack from a heavily armed and highly motivated force.

The 2nd Lt. Jimmy Nakayama Memorial in the Officer Candidate School classroom in building 307 was dedicated to his memory as he attended and was commissioned in OCS Class 008 in 1964. 2nd Lt. Nakayama was an Idaho native and an Idaho Army National Guardsman. He served as an Engineer officer in Co B, 116th Engineer Battalion in Rexburg, Idaho.

In 1965, 2nd Lt. Nakayama relinquished his State Commission to join the Regular Army as the Viet Nam conflict was emerging. In November of 1965, Pfc.



From Right to left: Author and War Correspondent Mr. Joe Galloway, Trudie Olson, widow of 2nd Lt. Jimmy Nakayama, Nikki Nakayama (Jimmy's and Trudie's daughter), 2nd Lt. Kevin Liston (who's OCS class dedicated the Memorial) and Lt. Col. Jim Harper (2nd MTB CDR), stand in front of the Jimmy Nakayama Memorial on 26 June 2015. Photo by Officer Candidate Robert Barnev

Nakayama went into battle with the 1st Bn, 7th CAV along with Lt. Col. Hal Moore as chronicled in the book and later the movie.

At LZ X-Ray, Pfc. Nakayama was fatally injured when a F100 Super Sabre dropped napalm on his position on Nov. 15, 1965. Mr. Galloway was credited with evacuating Jimmy Nakayama from the battlefield after Jimmy was wounded. Mr. Galloway was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor for his actions at LZ X-Ray (the only one given to a civilian during Viet Nam).

Joe Galloway and Jimmy Nakayama's family also visited the grave site of Maj. Ed Freeman nicknamed "Too Tall To Fly" at the Idaho Veterans Cemetery. Freeman's heroic acts are also told in Mr. Galloway's

book.

Capt. Freeman was a pilot with the 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion Company A which was attached to the Moore's Battalion. Freeman was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor (MOH) for his repeated flights to deliver critical ammunition, resupplies and to evacuate casualties out of the "hot" LZ.

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